GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2782
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
RECHARGE OF GROUND WATER
A. KRISHNASWAMY;DUKHA BHAGAT;JASKAUR MEENA;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;RAGHUNATH JHA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch programmes for effective regulatory measures for management of water resources, especially for recharging of ground water in the country alongwith the efforts made to launch a concerted drive to create general awareness among the people on water recharging plan;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been formulated by the Government to prevent the people from excessive use of ground water resources;

(c) whether the Government have sought any technical and financial assistance from any foreign country to conserve the ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a)&(b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development has to be enacted by the States. The Union Government have circulated a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact appropriate legislation for this purpose. However, the Central Government has constituted Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development in the country. The authority has so far notified Najafgarh and Mehrauli Blocks of N C T of Delhi, Municipal corporation area of Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Ghaziabad and Ahmedabad, Ludhiana City, Diu Islands and Jhotwara block of Jaipur district of Rajasthan with a view to control depletion in ground level. The Authority has also organised mass awareness programmes to sensitise users at various levels with regard to the need for judicious use and scientific management of ground water resources including rain water harvesting and artificial recharge techniques. It has also suggested to the State Governments to make provision of roof top rain water harvesting in cities and initiate measures for conservation, protection and augmentation of ground water resources. The Central Ground water Board is also implementing a Central Sector scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" at a cost of Rs.25.00 crore during IX Five Year Plan.

(c)&(d) There is no proposal for external assistance exclusively for ground water conservation. However, the following projects, which have ground water recharge component have been recommended to the World Bank and the Department of Economic Affairs for assistance from a suitable donor agency.

(i) Salinity prevention project for Saurashtra Coastal Area (Gujarat).

(ii) Augmentation of surface water recharge in over- exploited aquifers (Gujarat).